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Editors' Preface and Acknowledgements

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Editors' Preface and Acknowledgements

Sophonie Bazile, Christine Woodward, and Zachary Griffith

EDITORS-IN-CHIEF, UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

The 2017-2018 Editorial Collective is pleased to present the 27th volume of *disClosure: A Journal of Social Theory*. Published since 1992, *disClosure* is an annual graduate student-run journal that is produced in conjunction with the Committee on Social Theory. Each year, a collective of graduate students write and distribute a call for papers, determine a review process for the submissions, copyedit, and are responsible for the design and production of the journal, including layout, cover artwork, and the order of submissions. Each issue of *disClosure* is based on the theme from the previous year's ST 600: Multidisciplinary Perspectives in Social Theory capstone course.

Over the past year, we have compiled an exciting collection of interviews, scholarly articles, poetry, and fiction that explore the volume's central theme: "Archives." Archives are dynamic constellations of absence and presence, ghosts and ghouls, dust and the digital. As such, discussions of archives stretch into multiple schools of thought and practice, raising questions about power, knowledge, memory, community, and social justice. The works collected here, each one employing its own theoretical and methodological approach to archives, contribute to these important and timely conversations.

The volume features interviews from the four scholars invited to the University of Kentucky for the Committee on Social Theory's 2017 Spring Lecture Series: Karen Till, Kimberly Christen, Jorge Cañizares-Esguerra, and Michelle Caswell. They were generous with their time and energy, sharing insights gathered from years of engagement with archival issues in their research. In their interviews, they tackle archives from the perspectives of indigenous knowledges, privacy, knowledge production, memory, legacies of colonization, violence, community control, art, embodiment, identity, and difference. Ultimately, their words remind us what is at stake in discussions of archives: the past, present, and future of the people who archives do—or do not—represent.

The poetry and artwork in this collection reflect the fragmentary and distant yet paradoxically immediate nature of the archive, tracing the ways in which the stories that we tell, the stories that we remember, and the stories that become official shape our existence. These works also productively probe the role that geography and power play in archives and memory-work, while asking provocative questions about the presence of the past. Together, they comprise a multifaceted study of the archive and its significance in our lives.

Neither this volume nor the conversations that inspired it would have been possible

without University of Kentucky professors Richard Schein (Geography), Mónica Díaz (Hispanic Studies and History), Melissa Adler (Information Science; now at the University of Western Ontario), and Jim Ridolfo (Writing, Rhetoric, and Digital Studies), who conceived of “Archives” as a theme for the Spring 2017 ST600 course and served as its instructors. Their work in inviting the Spring Lecture Series speakers to campus set the foundation for the journal. More importantly, their willingness to share their personal experiences with archives moved the topic from being abstract to concrete and urgent, and we thank them for it. We also want to extend a special thank you to Dr. Ridolfo for his help as the collective’s faculty advisor. His advice on the editorial process from writing the call for papers to production design was invaluable.

We are grateful to the University of Kentucky’s Committee on Social Theory for its support. Program Director Dr. Jeremy Crampton and Interim Director Dr. Michael Samers have been excellent partners throughout the publication process. We appreciate the labor of Social Theory Research Assistants Katie Ratajczak and Jess Linz, as well as administrators Eva Hicks and Lori Tyndall. Their work organizing lunches and flights, making flyers, filming events, reserving space, and troubleshooting often goes unnoticed, but is indispensable and greatly appreciated.

We also want to thank those who have shared their expertise with us over the last year. Adrian Ho, the Director of Digital Scholarship at UK Libraries, was instrumental in keeping the journal going through a difficult transitional period. In addition, he led the push to assign digital object identifiers (DOIs) to all *disClosure* articles. We also appreciate the work of former editor Eric Huntley, who worked alongside Adrian to apply the Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial License retrospectively to all *disClosure* content and get the journal indexed with the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ). Former editors Ashley Ruderman and Cate Gooch also gave generously of their time, answering our questions and sharing materials.

Importantly, we want to recognize those whose time and efforts made this issue possible. We extend a heartfelt thank you to this year’s editorial collective whose dedication and commitment, amidst the joys and pains of coursework, teaching, research, and personal lives, made this volume happen. Finally, we cannot forget the authors whose work on archives covers the pages of *disClosure*, Vol. 27. We are grateful and humbled that they chose to share their work with us.